

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 454

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, TZ

SUBJECT: CALVIN C. COBB

1. AFTER TWO MONTHS OF EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CONSULAR ACCESS TO MR. CALVIN COBB ON PART OF POST OFFICERS, CONOFF WAS ABLE TO SEE HIM ON JANUARY 9, 1976, FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES, AT KEKO REMAND PRISON, DAR ES SALAAM, IN THE PRESENCE OF A (MORE OR LESS) ENGLISH-SPEAKING PRISON GUARD.

2. MR. COBB APPEARS IN FINE FORM AND STRONG, IF NOT TOTALLY HEALTHY. HE WAS WEARING A BANDAGE ON THE MIDDLE FINGER OF THE RIGHT HAND (HE SAID IT WAS AN INFECTED CUT) AND HAD A TWO INCH HIGH, ONE INCH ACROSS GROWTH ON THE RIGHT ELBOW (WHICH HE SAID DID NOT HURT). HE IS SCHEDULED TO BE TAKEN TO THE ORTHOPEDIC SECTION OF THE HOSPITAL IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, PENDING RECEIPT OF THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION'S GASOLINE ALLOWANCE.

3. THE SESSION WAS CORDIAL. AFTER NORMAL GREETINGS AND WELL-WISHINGS, CONOFF OPENED QUESTION OF RETURN TO US. COBB STATED HE HAS RECONSIDERED AND NOW DOES NOT BELIEVE HE WANTS TO FOLLOW ELDRIDGE CLEAVER, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT THINK THE USG (AND THE STATE OF NEW YORK) HAVE CHANGED THAT MUCH. CONOFF TOLD COBB THAT FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE FOR HIS RETURN BY AIR TO NEW YORK IF HE SO CHOSE, BUT NO RPT NO MENTION OR
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INTIMATION OF ANY EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS WAS MADE. HE DEMURRED

BUT THANKED CONOFF FOR EXPLORING THAT POSSIBILITY (WHICH HE HAD REQUESTED PREVIOUSLY).

4. CONFF RAISED ISSUE OF ACCESS BY SAYING HE HAD ATTEMPTED FOR LONG TIME TO GAIN ACCESS BUT THAT TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES REFUSED ON GROUNDS THAT COBB DID NOT WANT TO MEET WITH US OFFICIAL SINCE HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO RENOUNCE US CITIZENSHIP. CONOFF ASKED IF HE HAD MADE HIS CHANGE OF MIND KNOWN TO TANGOV. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD POLICE OFFICIALS VERY EARLY IN PROCEEDINGS THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO MEET WITH US OFFICIALS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY OF THE MESSAGES WHICH CONOFFS HAD ASKED BE RELAYED TO HIM VIA FORNOFF OR ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PERSONNEL. HE HAD NOT BEEN ASKED IF HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT MEETING WITH US OFFICIALS.

5. COBB ASKED THAT CONOFF ATTEND HIS APPEALS HEARING BEFORE THE HIGH COURT ON JANUARY 16, 1975, AND CONOFF WILL ATTEMPT TO DO SO.

6. ABOVE CASE TO DATE INCLUDES THESE EXAMPLES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE CURRENT US-TANGOV CONSULAR CONVENTION: DELAY OF ACCESS, DENIAL OF PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH COBB, ASSERTION OF A LIMIT OF ONE VISIT PER MONTH TO INCARCERATED AMERICANS, DENIAL OF PERMISSION FOR CONOFF ATTEND EITHER OF THE OTHER JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, ETC.
SPAIN

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